

Normandale Park mass shooting victims and family members to speak at sentencing

What: Sentencing for mass shooter Benjamin Smith;
Victims, family to make statements
When: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.
Where: Multnomah County Central Courthouse, Courtroom 9D
1200 SW 1st Ave., Portland OR 97204

PORTLAND, OR, April 12, 2023—The sentencing hearing for Benjamin Smith, who pled guilty to murdering one person and attempting to murder four others, will be held at 1:30pm on April 18, 2023 at Multnomah County Central Courthouse, Courtroom 9D. Survivors, along with the widow of June Knightly, will make impact statements during the hearing.

On February 19, 2022, Smith targeted a small group of unarmed women at the southwest corner of Normandale Park, yelling threats, provocations, and misogynistic slurs. The video footage recorded by one of the survivors is the only clear, objective record of the unprovoked attack in which June Knightly— known in the activist community as TRex— was murdered.

As this case resolves, survivors and family will be coming forward to expand on their experiences, correct misinformation, and share details not yet disclosed to the public.

The women to make statements include: Katherine Knapp, widow of June Knightly, who was killed with the first shot fired by Smith; DEG, paralyzed from the neck down by a gunshot injury to her cervical spine; Allie, who sustained four gunshots; Dajah, who sustained one gunshot, and captured the attack on her helmet camera; and Hank, who was targeted in the attack and was unharmed.

This group faults Smith alone for his unprovoked lethal attack, and the impact it has had on the victims, their loved ones, and the wider Portland community. This group also maintains that Smith's attack was an act of violence influenced by local and national politicians and police—whose reckless public actions continue to embolden lethal vigilante attacks against the citizens they purport to serve and protect.

As previously stated by Knapp, following Smith's plea hearing on March 8, 2023, the victims of this horrific, unprovoked attack remain appalled by the actions taken by the Portland Police Bureau in the aftermath of the shooting. The victims have, to date, received no acknowledgement of the devastating harm caused by the PPB press release which implied that a mass shooter and murderer had acted in self-defense.

Direct media inquiries to normandalesurvivors@proton.me. This will reach all members of the group.

###